

First Detailed Interrogation of
Hans Michael Richter

CSDIC(Main)/Y 14, CWF,
7 – 12 November 1944

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Editor: Frode Weierud, Crypto Cellar Research

Note: For the information about Rasterschlüssel 44, Doppelkastenschlüssel, and Luftwaffen-Sonder-Doppelkastenschlüssel see page 3.

FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF
RICHTER HANS MICHAEL

Rank: L/Cpl (O/Gefr)
 Unit: 12 COY 40 GAF SIGS REGT
 Id No: 24736 (Ln.Ers.)/Lg.Nachr.Rgt.7
 Function: WT operator and cipher clerk
 Deserted: 23 Oct 44, to join I Div ELAS near LARISSA
 Secret Number: M44/1835
 Interrogated: CSDIC(Main), CWF, 7 - 12 Nov 44

NY-3
 OP 20K#OP324

Subject of Report: WT and Ciphers in 3 Bn 40 GAF Sigs Regt:
 Identifications of sigs units in the BALKANS:
 German Longrange Comms in GREECE:
 Tng of GAF WT and Cipher Operators:
 Personalities:
 Specimen Call-sign and Cipher Key "ZETTEL":
 Orders for destruction of sigs material likely to fall
 into enemy hands.

1. PREAMBLE

FW is the son of a Social Democrat from LEIPZIG, who was the Editor of the Socialist paper LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG. He claims to be related to a Prof. James Henderson, of ABERDEEN, and to have always been anti-Nazi, like his father. After leaving school, and before being conscripted, he worked in LEIPZIG as junior producer at a theatre. He saw his chance of deserting from the GAF when the British landed in GREECE and went over to ELAS in the neighbourhood of LARISSA, bringing along with him a training copy of the "RASTERSCHLUESSEL 44". He claims also to have been in touch with British officer(s) working in GREECE before the landing. He wishes to work for the Allies.

FW has an excellent memory and talks willingly. However, he is apt to overestimate the importance of his information and to give information based not so much on his own experiences as on his impressions.

Reliability : Fair

2. HISTORY AND MOVEMENTS

28 Apr 43 Called up to 6 GAF Sigs Depot Coy, 7 Luftgau Sigs Regt, at AUGSBURG-PFERRSEH.
 9 May 43 Posted for training to 2 Coy, 305 GAF Sigs Tng Regt at REVIGNY sur ORNAIN, FRANCE.
 24 Aug 43 Posted to SOUTH-EAST (?) Command. Spent a fortnight at a transit camp in VIENNA Arsenal, waiting to proceed to GREECE.
 22 Oct 43 Posted to 12 Coy (Aircraft Plotting and Reporting - FLUG MELDEMESS), 40 GAF Sigs Regt, at ELEUSIS.
 20 Mar 44 Transferred to 15 Coy (Aircraft Plotting and Reporting) of same Regt at SALONIKA. FW's Det was later attached to 12 Coy, then at LARISSA.
 23 Oct 44 Deserted to I Div ELAS near LARISSA.

3. UNIT (3 Bn 40 GAF Sigs Regt)(A) Organisation and Function

FW knew the Regt consisted of three bns, numbered 1 - 3, but knew no details of 1 and 2 Bns.

3 Bn consisted of six coys, numbered 10-15. Functions were as follows:

{ 10 Coy	:	Evaluation (AUSWERTUNG)
{ 11 Coy	:	
{ 12 Coy	:	
{ 13 Coy	:	Aircraft Plotting and Reporting (FLUGMELDEMESS)
{ 14 Coy	:	
15 Coy	:	Aircraft Plotting and Reporting, and in addition Evaluation, though its designation-FLUGMELDEMESS-gave no indication of this.

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The number of dets in coys varied. Some had as many as nine. 13 and 14 Coys included Plotting, Telephone and WT dets (MESS, FERNSPRECH and FUNK TRUPPS). 15 Coy came under the orders of FLUKO SALONIKA.

Note: No further information is given in this report on working methods in evaluation, plotting and reporting, which have been dealt with by CSDIC Air GMP.

(B) WT Equipment

Coys in 3 Bn were equipped with FuGe 3 and FuGe 10, and also with sets of French manufacture called SARAM-Bronzavia. These were of two types, one referred to as the 3/10 - 100 Watt (French 160 W), and the other called the 0/12 - 20 Watt. A 60m aerial was used.

(C) WT Communicationsa) Call-signs

These were issued to the unit monthly. The orderly room gave out the call-sign for the day to the WT operators. Sometimes the previous month's list of call-signs was used in reverse order.

If communications were found to be difficult between WT stns (TRUPP STATION) the c/s would be signalled in between the designation of the det being called. The designation of a det was arrived at by adding the number of the det to the number of the coy to which it belonged; thus 12 Coy with three dets would have the designations 121, 122 and 123.

b) Frequencies

Coys in 3 Bn used two frequencies, the Aircraft Reporting Frequency (FLUGMELDEWELLE) and the Command Frequency (BEFEHLSWELLE). The latter was used chiefly for sigs admin traffic.

Aircraft Reporting Frequency : 3 Bn was on FLUGMELDEWELLE SUED GRIECHENLAND, which included the area from the Islands to SALONIKA. During Oct 44 this was as follows:

<u>German Summer (war) Time</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
0800-1630	3792 kcs
1630-0800	3118 kos

Note : Aircraft Plotting and Reporting units North of SALONIKA were on the FLUGMELDEWELLE SUED-OST or BALKAN.

Command Frequency : 3 Bn was on the BALKANS Command Frequency (BALKANBEFEHLSWELLE). The following signals were used to order units concerned to use this frequency :-

Bn to coys	1X1	"change to frequency"	MELCHIOR	(codename)
11 Coy to dets	BFR	" "	MELCHIOR	1
12 Coy to dets	XOX	" "	MELCHIOR	2
13 Coy to dets	YQQ	" "	MELCHIOR	3
14 Coy to dets	?	" "	MELCHIOR	4
15 Coy to dets	K Zero N	" "	MELCHIOR	5
	(till summer 44 MOM)			

c) Codenames

The following codenames were in use within 3 Bn at various times - dates are given below :-

<u>Formation or Unit</u>	<u>Codename</u>	<u>Till when used</u>
AOC GAF SOUTH-EAST (Kdeur der LW Sued-Ost)	ZENTAUER	?
Plotting Room HQ 3 Bn 40 GAF Sigs Regt	KEULE, SENATOR	? ?
Formerly Plotting Room of above, later 10 Coy 40 GAF Sigs Regt	BIRKENKRIED KEULE	About Jan 44 Till withdrawal in GREECE
Plotting Room HQ 15 Coy (Zentrale 15 Kp)	FALKE	After Aug 44 till withdrawal

Evaluation Office of above (Auswertung der Zentrale)	STORCHENNEST	Withdrawal in GREECE
HQ 3 Coy 26 Tech Bn	SILBERHOCHZEIT	Withdrawal in GREECE
HQ 7 Coy 4 SS Police } Pz Div }	FIRSTAUFSEHER KAUFHAUS	Aug 44 end Sep 44 (from beg Oct due to change monthly)

d) Ciphersi) "RASTERSCHLUESSEL 44"

Orders announcing the introduction of this cipher, and copies for tng purposes, were received by 3 Bn in mid Jun 44. Operators were given instructions in its use, but the orders stated that owing to difficulties in distributing the forms, etc., the LWSONDERDOPPELKASTENSCHLUESSEL was to be used after 1 Jul 44, (see iii below), until further notice. In Oct 44 PW's Det received the forms at last, but by mistake, as another Coy HQ had thought that his Det belonged to it, instead of to another Coy! This cipher was NOT used for comms, when the British landed in GREECE, by any unit in 3 Bn, but PW thought it might have been used by other units, possibly in CRETE.

ii) DOPPELKASTENSCHLUESSEL

This type of cipher was used by PW's unit till the end of Jun 44. It was known as NACHRICHTENSCHLUESSEL when used by coys, and as TRUPPENSCHLUESSEL when used by coy sub-units. The difference lay in the use to which the same cipher was put. In the former case it was used to decipher each bigram on the same key, whereas in the latter case it was used for enciphering only. Thus the clear bigram AV would read :

in NACHRICHTENSCHLUESSEL clear AV = XC:cipher = HW:recipher - signalled
in TRUPPENSCHLUESSEL clear AV = XC - signalled

Keys were changed every three hours. Period was 21 (twentyone).

iii) LUFTWAFFENSCHONDERDOPPELKASTENSCHLUESSEL

This was introduced w.e.f. 1 Jul 44 by order of the SO-in-C (HONAFUE). Daily tables of six boxes marked A, B, C, D, E and F, were issued for Jul 44 with three-hourly keys. 3 Bn then received orders to use the same tables for Aug 44, in reverse order, i.e. tables for 31 Jul to be used on 1 Aug, and so on.

The same tables were also used during Sep and Oct 44, with the following alterations:-

In Sep the same daily tables were used for each corresponding day of Aug, and the keys were reversed, i.e. if on 1 Aug from 0300 to 0600 hrs the key read FC (Boxes F and C), on 1 Sep from 0300 to 0600 hrs the key read CF (Boxes C and F).

In Oct the following tables were used. On 1 Oct tables for 31 Jul were used, and on 2 Oct tables for 1 Jul and so on, 3 Oct using tables for 2 Jul, WITH THE ADDITIONAL ALTERATION of converting keys (box-indicators) A, C and E to read B, D and F respectively. For instance, if the key for 7 Jul - which was used on 8 Oct - read for 0600 to 0900 hrs FC, it was changed to ED, F being equal to E and C to D, boxes ED being used for that three-hourly period.

iv) Enigma Machine Cipher

3 Bn HQ used enigma machine cipher for its comms with the Plotting Rooms (sometimes at Coy HQ, sometimes at Bn or Regtl HQ) and higher formations.

4. SIGS IDENTIFICATIONUnitLocation

GAF Sigs Regt SOUTH-EAST (In Pgt Sued-Ost)	ATHENS (?)
3 Bn "G" of above unit (Intercept)	Probably nr SALONIKA
I Coy (Transit Coy) of above unit	(moved to PANCEVO at end 43)
Intercept Unit known by codename "SUEDFUNK"	PARNASSUS

O/Lt	JOST	in Bn
O/Lt	FRISCHÉ	"
O/Lt	NICKEL	"
Lt	FEIGE	"
Lt	GOTZEN	"
Lt	MICHLIK	"
Lt	JENTSCH	"
Lt	MERGLER	"
Lt	LUNGWITZ	"
O/Fw	HOFMANN	i/c WT stn in 12 Coy
Fw	BACKHOEFER	Fitter or mechanic in 12 Coy
Fw	OPITZ	i/c Sigs maintenance in 12 Coy
Fw	WEGI	In 12 Coy
Fw	PEPER	In 12 Coy (?)
HptFw	SCHUBERT	In 15 Coy
O/Fw	SCHWENKE	In 15 Coy
Fw	LICKERS	i/c WT tng at Bn Sigs School nr ATHENS
Fw	DORNER	Formerly in 13 Coy. About mid Sep 44 said to have gone over to partisans on PAROS or NAXOS.
Fw	FELLMER	i/c WT stn of Plotting Room HQ Bn
Gefr	SIBER	Worked in Telephone Exchange of above Plotting Room. Very anti-Nazi. Poet and former communist.
O/Gefr	HORNBOGNER	WT operator in 3 Bn
O/Gefr	HIRLO	"
O/Gefr	WEBER	"
O/Gefr	KEITZ	"
O/Gefr	POHL	"
O/Gefr	ANDRESEN	"
?	PROKOP	A/o reporter in Bn
?	SUENDERMANN	"
?	ZIGAN	"
?	ARNOLD	"
?	DILTER	"
?	STRACK	"
Fw	ZIERKE	In Bn
Fw	JURISCHK	"
Fw	REINKE	"
Fw	LUNGEWITZ	"
Fw	LOOS	"
Fw	JASPEERS	"
Fw	GRASKE	"
Fw	ROLOFF	"
Fw	KOHUT	"
Fw	REICHENAU	"
Fw	HOHMANN	"
Fw	LEIGERS	"
Fw	GEIGER	"
Uffz	JAKOB	"
Uffz	WAGNER	"
Uffz	BOEHM	"
Uffz	WIESE	"
Uffz	HAREK	"
Uffz	BLUM	"
Uffz	VALDER	"
Uffz	WEISHEIT	"
Uffz	SCHLEMMANN	"
Uffz	OSTERHOLT	"
Uffz	EGGELING	"
Uffz	GLERSCH	"
Uffz	WEITZENDORF	"
Uffz	WERNER	"

(b) 2 Coy 305 GAF Sigs Tng Regt (Aug 43)

O/Lt	BEISSWANGER	OC Coy
Lt	PLAGENS	2nd i/c Coy
O/Fw	SCHNEIDER	Instructor in Coy
O/Fw	KALETTA	On course (flying personnel)
O/Fw	RICHTER	" "
Fw	SCHENGRAB	" "
Uffz	GREIBIG	" "

C.S.D.I.C. (Main),
C.M.F.
21 Nov 44.

H. T. Shergold Major
H. T. SHERGOLD, Major, I.O.
Army Section,
CSDIC(Main), C.M.F.

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SPECIMEN OF CALL-SIGN AND CIPHER KEY "ZETTEL"
ISSUED TO WT AND CIPHER OPERATORS

(drawn by PW from memory)

Rufzeichen und Schlüsselmittel fuer den Call-signs and Cipher keys for the	Datum (Date)	Uhrzeit (Time)
(Name der Funkbeziehung) Type of Wireless link		
Sammelrufzeichen All stations call-sign	e.g. DRJ	e.g. a s c (auf Ausweichswelle) (on alternative frequency)
Weitere Namen Other call-signs		

 (Weitere Funkbeziehungen)
 Other wireless links

 Abstimmung am um Uhr
 Quittungszeit
 Netting/Tuning on... at hrs

 Maschinenschlüssel
 Machine Key

 Steckverbindungen
 Plug connections

 a e z j (10 Paare)
 10 pairs

 Kenngruppen (4) KKS
 Recognition group...
 ...
 ...

 - Uhrzeit (Time)
 0300 - 1100
 1100 - 1900
 1900 - 0300

 Ringstellung
 ("ring" setting)
 16 02 04
 III V I
 V I III
 I III V
Notes :

- Other keys followed if applicable e.g. Doppelkastenschlüssel etc.
- PW states that a similar ZETTEL was issued daily by the Coy offices in 3 Bn 40 GAF Sigs Regt, where schedules of call-signs and keys were kept for one month.
- Frequencies were NOT on the ZETTEL, but were given to sets and marked in the Sigs Office Log Book (RETRIEBERSBUCH).

ORDERS FOR DESTRUCTION OF SIGS EQUIPMENT
LIABLE TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS

(reconstructed by PW from memory)

WT Transmitter and Receiver

Remove valves and bury them.

Use pick or hammer to smash condensers and coils.

Pour petrol over apparatus.

To complete destruction of the whole WT set place a 3kg charge and assault demolition charge near set and set off.

Bury remains.

Rectifier and all apparatus equipped with valves, condensers, etc.

Same as above, but if no time is available, destroy after a/m apparatus.

Field telephones FF33, cable drums, collapsible radio masts, testing instruments

To be broken up and parts mixed up and scattered, cables cut up, scales and indicators to be rendered unidentifiable, then as above.

Generators

To be destroyed by explosive charge or set on fire. High voltage machine to be broken in pieces. Sparking plugs and brushes to be removed and destroyed separately. Fuel to be emptied and disposed of - if no time is available it should be set on fire with tracer.

Secret Documents

A petrol lighter should be kept in the safe with the docs. In some units instructions order blasting cartridges and time fuzes (15m = 15 secs) to be kept there also. After STALINGRAD RT tables were enamelled so that they could be destroyed with a hammer.

Enigma Cipher machine

Remove drums, cut the wires of the plug connections. Try to smash up drums and bury remains, otherwise take back. Pour petrol over machine and destroy by use of explosive charge.

~~TOP SECRET~~CSDIC(MAIN)/YDISTRIBUTIONCopy Nos

AC of S, G-2, AFHQ.....	1
G-2 (Sigs "I"), AFHQ.....	2 - 4
G-2 (PW) AFHQ.....	5
GSI (s), AAI.....	6
GSI 8, MEF.....	7
MI 8, UK.....	8 -10
File.....	11 -13